



SAFO

Safety Alert for Operators

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

SAFO 14007
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Flight Standards Service
Washington, DC

http://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo

A SAFO contains important safety information and may include recommended action. SAFO content should be especially valuable to air carriers in meeting their statutory duty to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest. Besides the specific action recommended in a SAFO, an alternative action may be as effective in addressing the safety issue named in the SAFO.

Subject: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aircraft Wake Turbulence Re-Categorization (RECAT) Updates

Purpose: This SAFO advises aircraft operators of revisions to RECAT aircraft wake turbulence separation minimums.

Background: On November 1, 2012, the FAA began implementation of a six (6) category wake turbulence system called RECAT (Phase I) currently in effect at MEM, SDF, CVG, and ATL. For more information on RECAT see SAFO 12007 or FAA Joint Order (JO) 7110.659A.

Discussion: Wake turbulence data collected behind Category D and E aircraft was used to determine safe reductions of required separations when Category F aircraft are following. Table 1 highlights the changes made to the existing RECAT separation minimums when Category F aircraft follow Category D and E aircraft.

Table 1: RECAT Wake Separation Standards

		RECAT Separations Matrix					
		Follower					
		A	B	C	D	E	F
Leader	A	MRS	5NM	6NM	7NM		8NM
	B	MRS	3NM	4NM	5NM		7NM
	C	MRS	MRS	MRS	3.5NM		6NM
	D	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS	4NM
	E	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS
	F	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS	MRS

MRS = Minimum Radar Separation (3 nautical miles (NM), or 2.5NM when existing requirements are met)

Sites Affected: Implementation is planned on or about the date shown for the following airports:

- Dec 18, 2014 – Houston Metroplex (IAH / HOU)
- Jan 31, 2015 – Current RECAT airports (MEM / SDF / CVG / ATL)
- Mar 31, 2015 – New York Metroplex (JFK / LGA / EWR / TEB / HPN / ISP)
- Mar 31, 2015 – Charlotte Metroplex (CLT)
- Jun 30, 2015 – Chicago Metroplex (ORD / MDW)
- Sep 30, 2015 – Northern California Metroplex (SFO / OAK / SJC)

Recommended Action: Directors of Operations, Directors of Training, Training Center Managers, Check Pilots, Training Pilots, and flightcrews should familiarize themselves with the information contained in this SAFO.

Contact: Questions or comments specific to RECAT, contact Jeff Tittsworth at (202) 267-0886 or email jeffrey.tittsworth@faa.gov. For questions or comments regarding publication of this SAFO, contact Wayne Gallo at (202)-267-9082 or email wayne.gallo@faa.gov.